

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-18 are indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) insofar as the reinforcing structure arranged at the outer side of the ring body, recited in claim 7, 10 and 15, was not illustrated in the drawings. Since the terms have been deleted from Applicant's new claims, it is not believed that any drawing corrections are necessary.

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, except as discussed above,, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

Abstract of the Disclosure

Applicant is submitting a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure for that originally filed with this application to more clearly describe the claimed invention. Entry of the substitute Abstract of the Disclosure is respectfully requested.

Substitute Specification

As required by the Examiner, a Substitute Specification is enclosed, along with a marked-up copy of the original specification indicating the changes made thereto by the Substitute Specification. No "new matter" has been added to the original disclosure by the Substitute Specification. Entry of the Substitute Specification is respectfully requested.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-18 and has added new claims 19-36 to this application. It is believed that the new claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

It is submitted that the claimed subject matter is described in Applicant's specification in sufficient detail to enable one having ordinary skill in the art to make and use Applicant's invention without undue experimentation. It is believed that Applicant's specification discloses how to make and use the claimed invention.

It is believed that new claims 19-36 are commensurate in scope with original claims 1-18, and since claims 1-18 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, no detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is believed to be necessary.

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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